GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:547
ANSWERED ON:23.02.2001
RECOMMENDATIONS OF COMMISSION ON CONSTITUTION REVIEW ON WTO
PRABHUNATH SINGH

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Commission on Constitution Review has made certain recommendations to the Government for taking view of the public and the Members of Parliament on the WTO agreement which endangers the financial freedom of the country;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(c) the number of agreements signed with WTO so far and the effect thereof on the Indian economy?

Answer

MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN)

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) By ratifying the WTO Agreement, India became a party to the `Agreement Establishing the WTO` and its associated multilateral agreements which besides GATT, 1994 include 16 other multilateral agreements. The WTO agreements have provided a predictable rule based multilateral trading system. By virtue of signing the WTO Agreement, India is automatically entitled to get the most favoured nation (MFN) and national treatment for its exports from all WTO Members.There are also provisions under WTO agreements to address non-tariff barriers existing in foreign markets. WTO also has a strong Dispute Settlement Mechanism to resolve any disputes between members. Being a fully democratic organisation, with equal voting rights to each member, India is assured of a say in the multilateral rule making process.